

To the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

I am a regular bicycle commuter and member of Bike Walk Connecticut.

As such, I support the Governor's proposals to develop and fund a first-rate active transportation network of bike lanes, greenways, multiuse paths, and pedestrian infrastructure in Connecticut. Please support HB 6840.

- Biking and walking are cost-effective ways to reduce traffic congestion, and they're good for the environment, our health, and our economy.
- Bike lanes, sidewalks and greenways cost a fraction of what it costs to build and maintain roads. People want to bike and walk more, but many don't feel safe without bike lanes, greenways and sidewalks. Build them and people will use them.
- Since transportation is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases in Connecticut, consider that biking and walking couldn't be greener ways to get around. Active transportation must be a key piece of our climate action plan.
- Connecticut's car-dependent lifestyle is not the lifestyle that millennials or the creative class have in mind. A well-designed active transportation network will help bring millennials and the creative class to Connecticut and keep them here, strengthening our economy. Additionally, walkable, bikeable places would boost tourism immeasurably, with benefits spreading throughout our economy.

For so many reasons, it's time for Connecticut to become a great place to bike and walk. Please support HB 6840.

I ride my bike thousands of miles per year for both commuting and recreation. Mostly in suburban areas. While traffic is light, in most cases the roads could be greatly improved for cycling use and safety. At relatively low cost. I encourage many people to ride, and the most common objection I hear is that of safety. Funding HB 6840 will help and I appreciate your support of this important measure.

Thank you,

John Leonard